

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 INT-05 SS-15 NSC-05

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O P 211600Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7807

INFO DOD WASHDC PRIORITY

USDAO CARACAS PRIORITY

USDAO LONDON PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1226

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORS, MILI, TD, OVIP

SUBJ: FACILITATION OF ORIENTATION VISIT TO US BY
SENIOR GOTT OFFICIALS FOR CIVIL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
PLANNING

1. THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GOVERNMENT (GOTT) HAS
OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THAT THE USG FACILITATE SPECIAL
BRIEFINGS FOR TWO SENIOR GOTT OFFICIALS IN MID-JUNE
REGARDING ORGANIZATION OF EMERGENCY UNITS TO RESPOND TO
CIVIL DISASTER IN TIMES OF CRISIS. THE MINISTER
OF NATIONAL SECURITY HAS ALSO SPOKEN PERSONALLY TO THE
AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS INQUIRY
WHICH MAY LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CAPABILITY BY
THE ARMY REGIMENT AND/OR POLICE TO RESPOND TO CIVIL
EMERGENCIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

2. THE GOTT IS SENDING BRIGADIER J.C. H. SERRETTE,
COMMANDER OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO DEFENSE FORCES,
AND MR. L.J. RODRIGUEZ, A VERY SENIOR CAREER
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POLICE OFFICIAL CURRENTLY ASSIGNED AS SPECIAL ADVISOR

TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY TO BOTH EUROPE AND THE US SEEKING INFORMATION TO ASSIST THE GOTT IN ORGANIZING AN EMERGENCY UNIT WHICH COULD RESPOND IN TIMES OF CRISIS TO MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES IN SUCH SITUATIONS AS HURRICANE, FLOOD, EARTHQUAKE, ETC. OPERATIONS ENVISAGED WOULD INCLUDE MAINTAINING SUPPLIES OF POTABLE WATER, PROVIDING TEMPORARY SHELTER, MAINTAINING ORDER, OPENING COMMUNICATIONS, TEMPORARILY RESTORING ROADS AND BRIDGES TO TRAFFIC, AND SUPPLYING EMERGENCY FOOD RATIONS.

3. THE ABOVE NAMED OFFICIALS WISH TO BE IN THE US BY THE SECOND WEEK OF JUNE. THEY HAVE ALREADY DEPARTED FOR EUROPE. IN ORDER TO ASSIST EMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IN COORDINATING THEIR VISIT TO THE US, INFORMATION SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO MR. RODRIGUEZ VIA THE TRINIDAD HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON NO LATER THAN MAY 30 OUTLINING PROPOSED TRAVEL AND APPOINTMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR RODRIGUEZ AND SERRETTE. COORDINATION AND APPROVAL WILL BE REQUIRED WITH THE GOTT HERE AND THEREFORE EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT FACILITATE AND ARRANGE APPROPRIATE PROPOSED ITINERARY AND APPOINTMENTS LASTING UP TO ONE WEEK IF REQUIRED, AND PROVIDE DETAILS OF PROPOSAL TO EMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN NO LATER THAN TUESDAY AM, MAY 27.

4. GOTT IS PAYING ALL TRAVEL COSTS AND EXPENSES FOR SERRETTE AND RODRIGUEZ AND MERELY IS REQUESTING USG FACILITATE APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS.

5. ON BASIS OF DISCUSSION WITH OFFICIALS HERE, WE ENVISAGE THAT TYPE OF APPOINTMENTS WHICH COULD BE MOST USEFUL WOULD INCLUDE NATIONAL GUARD HEADQUARTERS IN A SOUTHERN STATE (PERHAPS FLORIDA BECAUSE OF TROPICAL CONDITIONS OF EMERGENCY FOOD STORAGE AND HURRICANE EXPERIENCE), CORRESPONDING CIVIL DEFENSE OFFICE, AND A LOCAL NATIONAL GUARD UNIT WHICH HAS HAD REASONABLY RECENT ACTUAL EXPERIENCE IN RESPONDING TO A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CIVIL EMERGENCY (NOT A UNIT WHOSE PAPER PLANS ARE MUSTY WITH NON-USE). IN ANY CASE, OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED THAT THEY FELT IT IMPORTANT TO MEET WITH STATE OR LOCAL LEVEL ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THE SCALE OF ORGANIZATIONS OR RESOURCES WOULD NOT BE COMPLETELY OUT OF LINE WITH TRINIDADIAN PROSPECTS. THE GOTT DOES NOT HAVE LIMITLESS FUNDS FOR THIS PROPOSED PROJECT AND MAXIMUM VALUE MUST BE OBTAINED FOR EVERY

DOLLAR. THEY FEEL THAT TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS MUST BE REASONABLE AND NOT LAVISH.

6. WHILE THE REGIMENT HAS BEEN GENERATING PROPOSALS FOR SOME TIME FOR EITHER CIVIL EMERGENCY OR CIVIC ACTION UTILIZATION OF ITS PERSONNEL RESOURCES, THE PRESENT HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION MARKS A NEW PHASE AND WE BELIEVE A UNIQUELY IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE USG TO ESTABLISH A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH TRINIDADIAN DEFENSE FORCES AND MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND ENABLE THEM TO PROFIT FROM OUR EXPERIENCE IN MEETING LEGITIMATE CIVIL EMERGENCY NEEDS.

7. REQUEST URGENT COORDINATION AND RESPONSE. DEFATT, COLONEL ROACH, IS PRESENTLY IN PORT OF SPAIN AND CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, CIVIL DEFENSE, VISITS, EMERGENCY PLANNING, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTO01226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750180-1103
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750531/aaaabbwb.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FACILITATION OF ORIENTATION VISIT TO US BY SENIOR GOTT OFFICIALS FOR CIVIL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
TAGS: PORS, MILI, OVIP, TD, US, (SERRETTE, J C H), (RODRIGUEZ, L J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006